

# NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

*Tuesday, April 19, 2011 - 9:00am–12:00pm*

University of Nevada Las Vegas, Main Campus, Systems Computing Services, Room 304  
Las Vegas, NV

## **Commissioners Present:**

Theodore Quasula, Chairman  
Richard Arnold, Vice-Chairman  
Sharon Frederick, Commissioner  
William Oliver, Commissioner  
Mary Ann McAuliffe, Commissioner

## **Staff Present:**

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director  
Chris Gibbons, Administrative Assistant

## **Guests Present:**

Wayne Howle, Solicitor General, Office of the Attorney General  
Lori Pasqua, Education Advisor, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California  
Fredina Drye-Romero, Indian Education Consultant, Nevada Department of Education  
Cordell Marsh, General Public  
Randall Proffit, Family Advocate, Moapa Band of Paiutes  
Mary Conway Jepson, Native American Program, Rural Nevada Development Center  
Chad Williams, Tribal Liaison, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services  
Christina Jacobus, Headstart Director, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

## **I. Convene Meeting & Roll Call**

Chairman Quasula convened the meeting at 9:15 a.m. and asked Sherry to take roll. Five Commissioners were present, establishing a quorum.

## **II. Invocation**

Commissioner Arnold provided the invocation.

## **III. Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Quasula asked all those present to introduce themselves and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

## **IV. Approval of January 14, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

Sherry requested that approval of these minutes be tabled to the next meeting.

Commissioner Arnold motioned to table the January 14, 2011 meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Frederick. The motion passed with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

## **V. Commissioner Reports**

Chairman Quasula reported that on March 30, 2011 he, Commissioner Oliver, Sherry and Chris had the honor of meeting with the Governor and the Tribes for about 3 hours. The meeting was held at the Governor's Mansion and there were a number of Tribal Leaders present. It was a pleasant exchange. He thanked Sherry and Chris for coordinating the meeting. Chairman Quasula mentioned that he spoke with Tribal Leaders after the meeting with the Governor on the Indian Law and Order Commission. There are 9 members on this Commission and it is just getting started, but there is no funding at this point. They are caught up in the

continuing resolution. This Law and Order Commission is to appoint a Tribal Advisory Committee and that should include two representatives having a criminal justice background and child advocacy background. There should be 2 representatives from each of the 12 regional offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He would like the Nevada Tribes to keep this in mind when nominations are opened.

## **VI. Executive Director Report – Sherry L. Rupert**

### **A. Report on March 30, 2011 Meeting Between Governor Sandoval and Nevada’s Tribal Leadership**

Sherry briefly reported on the meeting between Governor Sandoval and Nevada’s Tribal Leadership. There were 17 Tribes in attendance, along with Daryl Crawford, Executive Director, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Athena Brown, Superintendent, Western Nevada Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 4 representatives from the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) and the Interim Director of Nevada Urban Indians. It was a great representation of the Nevada Tribes. It was an intimate meeting where each of the Tribal Leaders introduced themselves and gave a brief background on their Tribes. The Governor stayed for the entire meeting and listened intently. He did express that he wanted to visit tribal lands after the Legislature adjourns. The Nevada Indian Commission will assist in coordination of that tour. He also mentioned that he wanted to see American Indian cultural exhibits at the airports. The Governor was very generous with his time especially considering the Legislature was in session. It was a really great start to building a new relationship.

### **B. Update on the Nevada Indian Commission FY 2012 and FY 2013 Budget, and Review of Budget Status Report (for Current Funding Year)**

Sherry provided a brief overview of the NIC budget request for FY 12 and FY 13 as it has progressed through the Legislative Session. The NIC budget has not yet closed as there were concerns raised by Legislators because of the minimal funds the NIC would receive and if the NIC would be able to function at this minimal level of funding.

She walked the Board through the remainder of funding in the NIC’s current fiscal year budget as well as the balance in the agency’s gift account. She also mentioned that the agency now has DSL, making the office much more efficient.

Commissioner Frederick suggested the Southern Nevada Commissioners meet with Senator Horsford and she offered to contact him. She also mentioned that in the past the Commissioners had decided that they would prefer to see funding for their stipends go to staff needs.

Commissioner Arnold supports that decision, but noted that it is interesting to look at other commissions and it is never a question. It is assumed that everyone will be taken care of and to not have the same consideration or parity is disturbing.

Sherry asked that if the Commissioners were going to meet with Senator Horsford, to meet with him before April 30<sup>th</sup> as that is when the NIC budget is scheduled to close.

Commissioner Frederick will check his schedule.

### **C. Report on Nevada Tribes’ Day at the Legislature, Carson City, NV – April 11, 2011**

Sherry reported that the Nevada Tribes’ Day took place on April 11, 2011 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. She had reserved Room 3100 at the Legislative Building and they had an informational booth downstairs at the Assembly entrance. Sherry’s husband and son were in their regalia downstairs greeting people and handing out the reception program. Ralph Burns provided the opening prayer in the Assembly, accompanied by Christina Thomas, and Ben and John Rupert. Dina Pete from the Washoe Tribe gave the opening prayer in the Senate. There were traditional performances and Tribal Leaders speak throughout the day in Room 3100. Sponsors for the day were the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Washoe Tribe of



Nevada and California, Nevada Indian Commission, Indian Territory and the EPA Tribal-State Liaison Office.

According to Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) staff, this was the first time that a whole day had been committed to the Nevada Tribes. This is something that Sherry would like to continue. She wants to make sure that they reserve a date early on in the session. She mentioned that Arizona has legislation in place stating their tribes shall meet at the Legislature on a certain day every session. Sherry would like to pursue legislation to that effect here in our state.

Chairman Quasula agrees and would like to formalize with a resolution to develop legislative language to mirror the Arizona statute.

Commissioner Frederick commented that the LCB develops this type of language (bill draft requests). Also, that it should be fairly easy for the LCB to mirror the Arizona language.

Commissioner Arnold motioned to make it a priority of the Indian Commission to pursue legislative language to establish a permanent day at the Legislature for the Nevada Tribes, seconded by Commissioner Frederick. The motion passed with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

Commissioner Oliver commented that on the Tribes' Day at the Legislature education supporters were picketing that day and may have taken away from the day.

Commissioner Frederick commented that if the Legislature should adopt annual sessions, then there would be an annual meeting for the Tribes.

Chairman Quasula stated that the opportunity is prime right now, especially when the Governor is open to working with Tribes.

Sherry reported that the Tribal Leaders were a part of planning for the day and decided who the speakers and performers would be. It was a great collaboration between the Indian Commission and the Tribes.

D. Sherry reported that she participated in the following:

1. Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Meeting, Reno, NV – February 3, 2011
2. Western Regional Conference, Reno, NV – February 9, 2011
3. Governor's Broadband Task Force Meeting, Reno, NV – February 15, 2011
4. RES 2011, Las Vegas, NV – March 14-17, 2011
5. Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Summit, Reno, NV – March 21-22, 2011
6. Attorney General's Nevada Interjurisdictional Tribal Colloquium, Reno, NV – March 28-29, 2011

The Nevada Indian Commission was contacted by the Attorney General's Office to assist with securing the venue at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and ideas on speakers. They did move forward with our recommendations and contact those speakers for inclusion.

7. Rural Roundup, Mesquite, NV – April 6-8, 2011

The Indian Territory presented Scott Carey, Tribal Planner, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe with their "Voluntourism" award for the year and Sherry Rupert received the Statewide Excellence in Tourism Award.

E. The following upcoming meetings/conferences/events were shared with the Board:

1. Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference, Las Vegas, NV – April 20-21, 2011
2. University of Nevada, Reno Spring Powwow – April 23, 2011
3. University of Nevada, Reno American Indian Graduation Reception, Reno, NV – May 4, 2011
4. National Historic Preservation Month Stewart Event – May 21, 2011

Sherry reported that the Nevada Indian Commission is holding this event at Stewart and is inviting the public to come and learn about Stewart. She will give the history of Stewart and has invited alumni to come and be at their stops along the Stewart Indian School Trail to speak with visitors one on one.

Chairman Quasula recommended that Sherry develop a press release for the event.

5. Indian Health Board of Nevada Quarterly Meeting – June 2, 2011
6. Stewart Father's Day Powwow – June 17-19, 2011

## **VII. STEWART**

### **A. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms (6) to the Stewart Advisory Committee**

Sherry read the 6 Appointment of Representative Forms to be considered for approval to the Stewart Advisory Committee: Marion Christensen, JoAnne Peden, Joseph Sam, Daryl Haines, Larry Hale and Wanda Batchelor.

Commissioner Frederick motioned to approve the 6 Appointment of Representative Forms for the Stewart Advisory Committee, seconded by Commissioner Arnold. The motion passed with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

### **B. Update on Stewart Building #1 Rehabilitation**

Sherry reported that they are in Phase 1B (programming and schematic design) of rehabilitation of Building #1. The architects have done a really good job of telling the story of the building (where it has been). The group has also looked at the uses of the building. She stated that there is going to be some minor construction on the building to include cleaning of the basement, weatherizing and stabilizing the windows, adding construction doors and rehabilitation of the metal windows and fixtures.

Commissioner Frederick questioned whether we were able to use the basement. Sherry stated that the contractors have spoken with the State Public Works Board and it looks as though they will be able to use the basement at some point. Sherry also explained that the second story would not be accessible to the public, but would be used for storage and to prepare the exhibits. All exhibits will be on the first floor.

Commissioner Arnold inquired of the condition of the building drawings and whether they are being stored properly in order to preserve them. He also suggested getting these framed and having them as part of the exhibit.

Commissioner McAuliffe suggested that if the architects are providing any models that these could also be included in the exhibit. Sherry commented that the architects are providing renderings and they can be used for their fundraising efforts. Sherry thought that they could display the drawings and the rendering during the Stewart Father's Day Powwow so the public could see that they are moving forward with the Cultural Center. This would also be an opportunity for the public to tell us what they remember about the building during these different eras.

### **C. Update on Stewart "S" Repainting Project**

Sherry reminded the Board that she had appeared before the Carson City Board of Supervisors and they overwhelmingly supported the project. She has received a letter from Carson City affirming their support. This letter will accompany the application to BLM. Sherry turned the Board's attention to pictures she took of the "S" and the surrounding area. She went over plans for the project and noted that the hike up to the "S" is very steep and they will need volunteers to stake out the "S" and to carry supplies up the side of the hill. The alumni want to be involved, so we thought that we could set up a tent down in the parking



area for alumni and refreshments, allowing them to be a part of the day. The date will not be set until the Right of Way Application has been approved.

Chairman Quasula asked if there were any environmental issues. Sherry replied not at this time as they are not creating something new, but maintaining what is already there. Chris mentioned that they still wanted to work with the Washoe Tribe to provide further protection for the site by making it a Tribal Cultural Property (TCP).

Commissioner Arnold suggested working with the State Historic Preservation Office on this. He believes they would be very supportive of this. He also suggested reviewing Bulletin 38-National Park Service for a TCP. He commented that they really are not that difficult to do.

#### D. Update on Stewart Father's Day Powwow

Sherry reported that everything is in place except for the Host Drum. The Powwow Committee has had several discussions on this. They really wanted to bring in an out-of-state drum, but they do not have the funding to do this, so they decided to move forward with a local drum. They are waiting for a confirmation on the drum. Everything else is running smoothly.

Commissioner Arnold asked what the significance was of having an outside drum. Sherry explained that inviting an outside drum or a well known drum is expensive, but it attracts more people to the event.

Sherry asked the Board for their support of the event by providing a donation, sponsorship, or buying raffle tickets.

### VIII. EDUCATION

#### A. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms (6) to the Indian Education Advisory Committee

Sherry read the 6 Appointment of Representative Forms to be considered for approval to the Indian Education Advisory Committee: Kari Emm, Sue Chambers, Leslie Brown, Stacey Montooth, San San Tin, and Christopher Kypuros.

Commissioner Frederick motioned to approve the 6 Appointment of Representative Forms for the Indian Education Advisory Committee, seconded by Commissioner Arnold. The motion passed with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

#### B. Brief Overview of NIC Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) Activities

Lori Pasqua briefly reported that the Committee has been discussing pending budget reductions to Nevada's higher education institutions.

Lori asked Sherry to report on the last meeting of the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Bid Subcommittee. Sherry reported that the group had met with the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA) initially and then the RSCVA flew Wanda Johnson, Convention Manager for NIEA to Reno for a site visit. Sherry met Miss Johnson and the RSCVA for the site visit of hotels in Reno. The following day, the RSCVA and Wanda met with the Local Planning Committee at the NIC office. They were impressed that we already have our Local Planning Committee in place. The Committee took Wanda out to the Washoe Tribal lands for a tour. Then, Saturday Sherry and her family invited Wanda to visit Pyramid Lake. They took her out to the Stone Mother and the Pyramid and even took her fishing. Should Nevada be awarded the convention, the Local Planning Committee would receive \$10,000 to be used for educational purposes. The group's thought is that they could develop a scholarship fund for American Indian students. Sherry commented that she thought it was a very successful visit.



Fredina commented that she believes that it helps that Nevada has a good relationship with some of the NIEA Board members, as a few have participated in Indian Education events here in Nevada.

Commissioner Arnold wanted to know when NIEA would be voting on the convention. Sherry explained that NIEA membership would vote at their upcoming convention in October, Albuquerque, New Mexico. It was suggested that since the Commission doesn't have out-of-state travel funds, that by collaborating with the RSCVA, they may be able to assist.

Lori reported that other than that they have been collaborating with other tribes on education activities.

#### C. Update on Current Indian Education Consultant Activities

Fredina reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Education Summit had an attendance of 150-170, the largest attendance so far. This year's Indian Education award went to Claire Manning Dick and Harold Abel. She gave a brief overview of the topics that were covered at the Summit. Parent involvement was a big topic and the evaluations showed that there should be more Tribal Leader presence at the Summit.

The curriculum that she has been developing is in the final review process. She has requested lesson plans.

### **IX. Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Council Presentation and Request for Formation of a Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee within the Nevada Indian Commission**

Christi Jacobus was very happy to be a part of the Indian Education Summit as she believes that Early Childhood is the first step to an education. She is representing the Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Council (TECAC). Ms. Jacobus began with a brief history of the TECAC.

Commissioner Arnold excused himself at this time.

They started in December 2009 to build a group for Early Childhood. Mike Tinsley had submitted an application to the Early Childhood Advisory Council. The grant only covered structure, purpose and development of a strategic plan. The TECAC has reached these goals and is hoping to have the Nevada Indian Commission approve this group as an Advisory Committee of the Commission. The purpose of the group is to assure an effective and efficient system for early childhood development, for children transitioning from early childhood clear through the educational system to be successful. Their group hopes to educate and influence Tribal Leaders on the importance of early childhood development, inform and educate tribal communities on the importance of early childhood development, ensure a system of coordination and collaboration among tribal early childhood programs and Indian Education providers within Nevada's school districts and tribal education programs.

Fredina has been a part of the committee since the beginning. The Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) strategic plan (Goal #8) is being used for the Tribal Early Childhood Council (TECAC). Margot Chappel saw the IEAC strategic plan and thought this would be a great place for the TECAC to start their strategic plan.

Christi stated that the state people don't really understand how the tribal programs work. They need a group where they can discuss items that pertain to them. Fredina affirmed that one of the main reasons that the TECAC was formed was that the state just wanted one representative for all the tribes to sit on their committee. The TECAC allows all of the Tribes to be involved. They have now developed their strategic plan and need to identify a core group.

Sherry clarified that the group was initially formed under the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada through a grant received from the State of Nevada. Their grant funding has run out and they would like to continue to meet; they don't want the group to fall apart. They went to the IEAC first and they were approved at IEAC's last meeting as a subcommittee. Early Childhood is different than elementary and post-secondary which is the focus of the IEAC. They are asking to become their own Advisory Committee to the Indian Commission.



Sherry explained that there was funding to the committee from the Headstart Collaboration Office. That funding has been utilized. Additional grant funds will not be available until after July 1, 2011. That funding will be very important moving forward as the Indian Commission staff (as earlier reported) will be part-time and will not have the time or resources to dedicate to this group. It will be very important to secure this funding to make the Indian Commission “whole” so they can help this committee out. This is something the Commission would like to do, but the budget constraints must be considered.

Commissioner Frederick asked if this is premature considering the funding situation. Sherry answered that she has had a few discussions on funding for the TECAC and nothing is in writing, but there could be funding to assist with coordination and facilitation of this group. Again, funding would not be available until after July 1, 2011.

Christi explained that they would like to secure the funding so that the group could grow and be sustained.

Chairman Quasula stated that he thought that the NIC funding is an issue and is difficult to predict. He would like to see where the NIC will be after July 1, 2011. He is personally committed to early childhood development, but thinks that the NIC should not form a new committee until our funding is secure.

Commissioner Oliver agreed.

Commissioner Frederick would like to take a look at this at our next scheduled meeting when they know more about the NIC budget. She asked that this item be placed on the next agenda.

Chairman Quasula added that the TECAC continue as a subcommittee of the IEAC at this point.

Christi agrees and by next meeting they could identify their core group and their funding source.

#### **X. \*Informational Presentation on Indian Territory Activities**

##### **A. Nevada Magazine Jul/Aug Issue**

Chris gave a brief overview of IT and activities of the Territory. The Territory will be meeting later today in Las Vegas. The Nevada Magazine is dedicating the Jul/Aug issue to Indian Territory and have given great rates to Tribes for this dedicated issue.

##### **B. Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference, Las Vegas, NV**

The Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference begins tomorrow at the Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort. The first day will be speakers and the second day is a familiarization tour to Moapa Tribal Lands, including the Lost City Museum and the Valley of Fire. The Moapa Band of Paiutes is providing a guide (Aletha Tom) on the bus to give tribal history and to share points of interest. Friday, there is an optional tour of the Grand Canyon Skywalk.

##### **C. Proposal for American Indian Cultural Exhibits at the Reno-Tahoe Airport and the McCarran International Airport**

Sherry had mentioned at the last meeting that the Governor would like to see an American Indian exhibit at both airports. Then, the Governor mentioned this again at his meeting with Tribal Leaders in March. This is now the number one priority of the Indian Territory. This will be a big project.

The Territory is also developing the Native American artisan listing and Sherry won the Statewide Excellence in Tourism award at the Rural Roundup, Mesquite, NV. The Territory has submitted a grant to attend the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) conference. This is an important conference for the Territory to attend as many ideas and contacts are made that are used in the planning of the Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference.

## **XI. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Suggestions for future agenda items included: Early Childhood Committee request. Chairman Quasula asked the Commissioners to forward any requests for agenda items to Sherry.

## **XII. Scheduling and Location of Next NIC Meeting**

The next Nevada Indian Commission Board meeting will be scheduled after July 1, 2011 and to coincide with other meetings, possibly ITCN.

## **XIII. Public Comments**

Chad Williams mentioned that the Statewide Native American Coalition is focusing their efforts on a Tribal Uniform Drug Law. Their last meeting they formed a Tribal Leaders Group to discuss a statewide drug law. Ely has developed tribal codes that could be used as a template by other tribes. They may need the assistance of the NIC. He also mentioned the Indian Health Board of Nevada (IHBN) and challenges with their reporting for their grants. The IHBN will not be funded after July 31, 2011. This funding will still be available to the tribes, but be accessible directly by the Tribes, no longer through IHBN. IHBN was utilizing 92% of the funding for administrative costs and the remainder was going to the Tribes. It is the hope of the Department of Health and Human Services that this change will better serve the Tribes.

Chairman Quasula agreed with the efforts of the Statewide Native American Coalition and their efforts to develop a Tribal Uniform Drug Law. Chairman Quasula commented that the Attorney General's Tribal Interjurisdictional Colloquium may have discussed this issue and he would like to have Wayne and Monty's group (Statewide Native American Coalition) report on the Colloquium to determine how the Nevada Indian Commission can lend support to this effort.

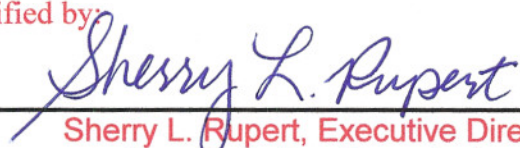
## **XIV. Adjournment**

Commissioner Frederick motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Oliver. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent). Meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.

### **CERTIFICATION**

It is hereby certified that these Meeting Minutes were approved at a meeting of the Nevada Indian Commission with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions, 2 absent, at a meeting duly held on August 31, 2011.

Certified by:



Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director  
Nevada Indian Commission